

April 24, 2014

Dear Childcare Director:

Cases of Shigella are occurring throughout Marion County. Several of these cases are occurring in childcare facilities. In order to prevent potential spread of this highly infectious diarrhea within your center, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Daily screen each child and staff upon arrival into your daycare. Any staff or children who have active diarrhea should be excluded from your center/child care.
2. In order to return to your facility, the following criteria must be met:
 - Any staff or children with diarrhea should be excluded until one stool specimen has been confirmed negative for Shigella.
 - If the stool test is positive for Shigella, the individual **must** complete a full course of antibiotic treatment as prescribed by the physician **and** be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to your facility.
 - In addition, **infected staff must have two negative stools after treatment in order to return to work.** If an outbreak persists, the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) may require this for children also.
3. Monitor each child in the child care facility for hand washing upon arrival into your center each day, after using the bathroom and before eating. **Children's hand washing should be overseen by an adult.** Continue this practice for 2 weeks after the last confirmed case in your center.
4. Any surface that could be a vehicle for transferring these bacteria to other children should be cleaned twice daily. These surfaces would include toilet seats, door handles, stair rails, and toys, and the interior of transportation vans. Instructions for this are attached.
5. A list of symptomatic staff and children needs to be phoned to our office daily.
6. MCPHD asks that you keep all your children enrolled at your center, so that no child will spread the infection to another center.

Nurses are available at 221-2117 should questions arise. We do recognize the extra time and energy involved for the parents and your staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Christiane Hadi, MD, MPH, MSc
Medical Director
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